

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8-15 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 14 and 15 being independent.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 7-9 are indicated as containing patentable subject matter. Based on this indication, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 7. Likewise, Claims 14 and 15 have been amended in the same manner as Claim 1.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment does not add any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search; rather, the independent claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, consideration and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dye '965. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, and in order to expedite prosecution, independent Claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended to include allowable subject matter, as discussed above. This rejection is therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 14 and 15 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2, 5, 6 and 8-13 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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